

Iowa Outdoors
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.com

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Teal Migration Reaching Peak

IOWA DUCK SEASON OPENS SATURDAY

By Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

CLEAR LAKE - The first segment of this year's split duck season begins Saturday. And although all duck species will become legal game, a primary objective of the September duck hunt is to allow Iowans an opportunity to bag migrating blue-winged teal.

From a hunter's perspective, the blue-winged teal is just about as perfect as a duck can get. Teal are abundant, accessible, challenging, and make excellent table fare.

But you'll need to get there early if you want to sample teal hunting for yourself. Blue-wings are notoriously restless. They are here today and gone tomorrow. So what if today's weather is a balmy 65 degrees and freeze-up is still a good month and a half away? From the teals' point of view it is time to head south. And south they go.

No other species of North American waterfowl embarks on an earlier - or longer - migration. Most blue-wings migrate as far south as Central America or northern South America. Significant numbers will even journey to below the equator, ending up in Brazil or Peru -- an incredible 4,000 miles from the summer nesting grounds.

Most long distance movements begin on clear days at sunset and continue through the night. Many of the teal that invaded Iowa earlier this month, have already arrived on the coastal wetlands of southern Louisiana. Some are as far south as Yucatan.

Although this year's teal migration has already reached its peak across northern Iowa, new flocks will continue to arrive in our state through early October.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL SHOW A MARKED PREFERENCE for shallow, duckweed laden potholes, marsh edges, and shallow backwaters -- a habit which makes them extremely accessible to hunters of all ages and at all levels of expertise. No expensive blind boat or tons of equipment needed here. In fact, when it comes to teal, a pair of hip boots and bag of decoys is all anyone needs to enjoy top notch, duck hunting.

One of the first things a hunter discovers is that blue-winged teal lack the acute wariness observed in most other duck species. Their disposition ranges somewhere between very trusting and downright tame. Teal respond well to the call and are not the least bit shy about piling right into the middle of a set of well placed decoys.

But this doesn't necessarily make the duck easy pickings. The turbo charged, aerial prowess of the teal clan is legendary, and whatever the species may lack in intelligence it more than makes up for with its wings.

Upon discovering that it has been duped, a flock of blue-winged teal will typically erupt into a display of aerobatics guaranteed to challenge the most accomplished wingshot. When it comes to hunting blue-wings, more powder and shot are expended with less effect than is the case for any other waterfowl species. Plenty of Iowa hunters will be reminded of that when Saturday's opener arrives.

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MANY AREAS LACK WATER HEADING IN TO THE DUCK OPENER

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Duck hunters will find many of their favorite marshes empty for this weekend's early duck season opener, despite soaking rains last week across much of Iowa. A blast of northwest winds and cool temperatures, though, could still push a lot of ducks through in time for weekend shooting.

"We had three inches of rain here, but the ground just soaked it all up," laments Bill Ohde, Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist in the Lake Odessa area of southeast Iowa. "I walked the area Monday and couldn't even tell that some of the

creeks had water in them.” That outlook isn’t much different for much of Iowa; coming off the driest August in years.

Still, if the stars—and the storm clouds—align just right, there could be a lot of activity for the September 20-22 (south zone) and September 20-24 (north zone) early seasons. More rain is forecast for Thursday, into Friday, adding a little water to those not-so-wet wetlands. Northwest winds and morning low temperatures in the upper 30s and low 40s should push another flight of early migrating ducks through, for opening weekend. “If temperatures in the Dakotas (also) get close to 30 degrees, I would expect a major, major movement of teal coming through Iowa,” forecasts DNR state waterfowl biologist Guy Zenner. “How long they will stay, depends on the habitat here. We won’t hold on to nearly as many, as [we would] if we had better habitat.”

Last weekend’s weather started the push southward. “We had a major shot of teal come through,” notes Ohde. “Saturday, there were almost none. Sunday, they were here. By Monday, most were gone (south) already.”

“The blue-winged teal are moving in,” reports Dennis Proctor, manager of the DNR’s Hawkeye Wildlife Area in Johnson County. “We’ve had 200, 300 mallards here all season. There are wood ducks here, too.” With just under three inches of rain, conditions improved, slightly. “The (Coralville) reservoir is up about a foot,” says Proctor. “A couple of the ponds with creeks feeding into them came up. Mostly, the rain just soaked in. It’s going to be real tough getting a boat out there.”

Even Iowa’s prairie potholes are dry, heading into the seasons. “I would expect a pretty good opening day. We have a fair number of teal around,” anticipates Neil Heiser, DNR wildlife supervisor in northwest Iowa. “The ducks will be concentrated, and so will the hunters. Just the deeper basins have water; and they are about half full. Traditionally, we usually have a good opening day.”

As Iowa’s early season closes, waterfowlers point to the later split of the duck season (Oct. 11-Dec. 4, north zone and Oct. 18-Dec. 13, south zone). Again, it will come down to late habitat and how long those hardier duck species stick around, long after the teal have gone south.

Most of the ducks that Iowa hunters see are produced on the prairie regions of Canada, the Dakotas and Minnesota. 2003 was another good production year there. “Given the better than average habitat on the Canada prairies and subsequent good production, I expect better numbers of ducks (migrating) than last year,” forecasts Zenner. “It should be similar to the late ‘90s. What it all comes down to is habitat. Obviously, they will fly over at some point. How many hunters see ‘up close’ will depend on that local habitat.” Heading into the opener, Zenner has seen substantially *fewer* ducks than the past six or seven years.

More fall rain would help. Some of Iowa’s wildlife areas can also pump and hold water. “We should be in good shape by the late season,” foresees Odessa’s Ohde. “We

are holding off now, to let the wild millet and sedges finish out their growing season. Then, we can let water in there.”

From here, weather fronts and northwest winds hold the cards.

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INVASIVE PLANTS FOUND AT YELLOW SMOKE LAKE

BOONE – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has confirmed the presence of brittle naiad, an invasive aquatic plant native to Europe, at Yellow Smoke Lake, in Crawford County, and suspects its presence at other Iowa lakes.

Brittle naiad has taken over Yellow Smoke to the point that the boat ramp has been closed. Boat ramps are also closed at Nelson Park, in Crawford County, Crawford Creek Lake and Moorehead Lake, both in Ida County, due to excessive weeds, suspected to be brittle naiad. The DNR also suspects brittle naiad is in Little Sioux Park, Woodbury County, and Casey Lake, in Tama County.

Kim Bogenschutz, with the DNR’s aquatic nuisance species program, said brittle naiad is difficult to control because the plant can grow from either the seeds along its stem, or from plant fragments that have broken free.

“Preventing the spread of brittle naiad to other lakes is the real key here now,” she said. “This plant is extremely difficult to get rid of once it gets into a lake.”

How brittle naiad got into Yellow Smoke is unclear, Bogenschutz said, so she is stressing prevention to boaters and anglers to stop the spread.

“We are encouraging people to clean their boats, fishing nets and other equipment thoroughly after they are finished at a lake and before they leave the area to help control the spread,” Bogenschutz said.

The DNR plans to use a systemic herbicide this spring to remove the brittle naiad in Yellow Smoke. The chemical will be applied when the plant is actively growing so it is absorbed through the stem. It will take 60 to 90 days for all the plants to die. If plants are killed too quickly, the mass of decaying plants will rob the water of oxygen and could cause a fish kill.

“It is expensive to remove these types of exotic plants using chemicals,” Bogenschutz said. “The treatment will kill the plants, but then we will have to deal with a bed of seeds.”

The chemical costs about \$1,400 per gallon and the treatment at Yellow Smoke will require five gallons. Yellow Smoke is a 39-acre artificial lake.

Brittle naiad is similar to Eurasian watermilfoil. Both plant species spread rapidly and can take over lakes, crowding out more desired aquatic plants. Brittle naiad has spread throughout much of the eastern United States and has been confirmed in Missouri and Illinois lakes.

"We are currently trying to determine the extent of the brittle naiad distribution in Iowa," she said.

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IOWA RECEIVES \$7,000 GRANT FROM HUNTING HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP

NEWTOWN, Conn. — The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) has awarded the Iowa Department of Natural Resources a \$7,000 grant from its Hunting Heritage Partnership to help provide expanded recreational hunting opportunities to Iowa's physically challenged hunters.

Announcement of the grant award was made at the International Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual meeting. A total of 18 state agencies received over \$500,000 in grant awards from NSSF.

Iowa's Hunt Master program, which provides physically challenged sportsmen with greater hunting opportunities through the use of the portable hydraulic hunting blind called a Hunt Master, has been a great success and met with high demand. Grant funds will allow Iowa to double the number of Iowa sportsmen served by the department by making available a second unit covering other areas of the state and reducing transportation time.

The Hunting Heritage Partnership was established by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearm industry, to provide much needed direct funding to state wildlife agencies to help them with programs that provide opportunities for, and remove barriers to, hunter participation.

"Officials with Iowa's Department of Natural Resources have designed a unique and dynamic recruitment tool and this grant recognizes their successful efforts and helps build on them. This is exactly the kind of creative program development that agencies in other states can look to as a model to help preserve our hunting and conservation traditions," said Doug Painter, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Iowa's 542,000 anglers and 243,000 hunters spent \$634 million in Iowa in 2001 in pursuit of their pastime which supported 12,000 jobs in the state. Efforts to expand hunting, such as the Hunt Master project, help boost the economy in a state where nearly one of every five Iowa residents hunt or fish, generating \$49 million in state tax revenue.

"When more hunters go afield, everyone benefits. The contributions hunters and anglers make in dedicated, unique taxes paid and the fees collected fund conservation efforts for all Iowa residents to enjoy," said Steve Williams, director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Applications from 36 states were submitted to the Hunting Heritage Partnership and over \$500,000 in grants were awarded to 18 states for programs focusing on issues from recruitment and retention of hunters to increasing access to hunting lands. The National Shooting Sports Foundation is working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and members of Congress on behalf of America's 18 million hunters to provide states with additional funding opportunities through the Hunting Heritage Partnership.

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IOWA DNR OFFERS COMPETITIVE TREE-PLANTING GRANT

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Keepers of the Land Program will be providing \$20,000 to sponsor a matching grant for tree-planting projects in Iowa communities.

The 2004 Keepers of the Land Tree Grant Program will award between \$500 and \$1,000 in matching funds to community organizations and governments for use in purchasing and planting trees on publicly-owned property. Grant recipients will be required to document project expenditures equal to or exceeding the amount of the grant.

The ranking criteria for selecting grant recipients will emphasize volunteer involvement as well as projects taking place in parks, schools, and other high-use areas. All of the projects will be completed by June 30, 2004.

Applications can be downloaded from www.iowadnr.com/forestry and must be postmarked by Friday, Nov. 21. Grant applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process in January 2004.

For more information or to request a paper copy of the application, please contact Matt Brewer, Forestry Volunteer Coordinator (515-242-6892, Matt.Brewer@dnr.state.ia.us) or Randy Cook, urban forester (515-281-5600, Randy.Cook@dnr.state.ia.us). The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Keepers of

the Land Program promotes volunteerism in protecting and enhancing our natural resources (see www.state.ia.us/dnr/volunteer/index).

For more information, contact Matt Brewer at 515-242-6892 or Randy Cook at 515-281-5600.

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CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULED AT LEWIS AND CLARK

ONAWA – The campground at Lewis and Clark State Park will close for the season on Sept. 29, so improvements to the electrical systems at many campsites can be completed, new campsites added, and a new road installed. The work should be completed by late November.

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of September 16, 2003

www.iowadnr.com

The Iowa Fishing Report is released every other week from August into the fall. For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Southwest

Green Valley (Union): Crappie and bluegill fishing is good in structure 8 to 14 feet deep.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Crappies can be caught in the trees along the creek channel.

Three Mile (Union): Bluegills and crappies are being caught in flooded trees at the upper end of the lake.

Twelve Mile (Union): Channel catfish fishing is fair on cut bait and liver.

Little River (Decatur): Channel catfish is best using cut bait and liver in the bays. Some crappies can be caught drift fishing open water.

Icaria (Adams): Channel catfish are still being caught using cut bait and liver.

Viking (Montgomery): Crappie fishing is fair using tube jigs tipped with a minnow or minnows suspended from a bobber fished around brush piles or suspended in 8 to 10 feet of water. Catfish fishing has been good on liver. Bluegills are fair with jigs and night crawlers.

Cold Springs (Cass): Channel catfish are fair on liver and prepared baits, especially toward evening.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Channel catfish fishing is fair using liver or prepared baits.

Greenfield (Adair): Fishing is fair for channel catfish using liver in the early morning and evening hours.

Orient (Adair): Channel catfish are fair using prepared stink bait or cut fish.

Nodaway (Adair): Fishing is fair for channel catfish in the early morning and evening hours using liver.

Morman Trail (Adair): Channel catfish are fair in the early morning and evening hours using liver. Largemouth bass fishing is fair.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Fishing is fair for 8-inch crappies on jigs/minnows around brush piles. Channel catfish are good on liver or prepared baits. Largemouth bass fishing is good.

Willow Lake (Harrison): Channel catfish fishing is fair using liver or prepared baits.

Big Creek Lake (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been good using pieces of worm on 1/32-ounce jigs and slip bobbers. Largemouth bass and walleye fishing has been fair, although the majority of fish caught are below legal length limits. Channel catfish fishing has been good using cut and stink baits.

Beaver Lake (Dallas): Bluegill fishing is fair using small jigs/worms and bobbers. Channel catfish fishing has been good, primarily early and late, using stink baits and liver. Largemouth bass fishing has been good, primarily for smaller fish.

Don Williams (Boone): Channel catfish fishing is fair using chicken liver and night crawlers. Crappie fishing is fair using minnows. Largemouth bass fishing has improved with the cooler weather.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Bluegill and redear fishing has been good using night crawlers and wax worms. Channel catfish fishing has been good early and late using stink baits and chicken liver. Largemouth bass – primarily sub-legal size fish – are being caught on crankbaits.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Channel catfish fishing has been good early and late using stink baits and chicken liver. Bluegills are being caught using traditional baits and lures. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using crankbaits, although as in Lake Ahquabi, most fish are sub-legal.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good using ‘worms’ and various rigs. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using night crawlers. Crappie fishing has been fair for boat anglers in deeper water using jigs and minnows.

Easter Lake (Polk): Crappie fishing has been fair, with some fish caught using jigs and minnows and/or worms. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair, with some fish taken along the rocky areas. Channel catfish fishing is good, with the majority of fish caught using stink bait.

Hickory Grove Lake (Story): Bluegill fishing is good using small hooks and tipped with worms. Crappie fishing is also good using various small jigs. Largemouth bass fishing has been good with most anglers using top-water lures. Channel catfish fishing is good on stink bait.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): White bass/wiper fishing is fair using crankbaits and shad raps. Channel catfish fishing has picked up in the upper end of the reservoir around Jester Park using traditional baits such as stink bait, cut bait and night crawlers.

Tailwater: Water releases have been low and fishing for most species has slowed although some channel catfish have been caught using liver.

Lake Red Rock (Marion): White bass/wipers fishing has been fair in the larger bays (Whitebreast), the marina area and in areas along the dam. Channel catfish fishing has been good along shorelines using stink bait, cut bait and night crawlers. A few anglers have been very successful crappie fishing in the larger coves. **Tailwater:** Channel catfish fishing has been fair with the low water release from the dam.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Southeast

Lake Darling (Washington): Good numbers of catfish are being caught in the area around the campground. Chicken liver still seems to be working the best.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): The lake level is up for the early duck season, which opens this weekend. The contractor who is working on the levee has been able to keep the Toolesboro Road open during the weekends but it is closed off and on during the week.

Lake Geode (Henry): Crappies are starting to come in for the fall; try minnows along the steep drop-offs in the lake for the best chance of getting a nice batch of fish. Anglers are also catching some nice catfish on chicken liver.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Crappies have been biting on small jigs fished in 3 to 5 feet of water. Look for schools of shad and you should find the crappies. Channel catfish have been hitting on minnows and prepared baits.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Crappies have been hitting on minnows. Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Crappies have been biting on jigs tipped with a minnow. Bluegills have been biting on small jigs. Largemouth bass are being caught on artificial lures.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Bluegills have been hitting on jigs tipped with a chunk of night crawler. Largemouth bass have been biting on a variety of artificial lures. Spinner baits and crankbaits have been the most productive.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson): Catfishing has been fair on dead shad and dip baits throughout the reservoir. Anglers are catching crappie throughout the reservoir around deeper brush piles, and drop-offs around the rock walls.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Crappies are being caught throughout the lake. Fish up to 9 inches and larger available.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek): Crappie fishing has been good over brush piles. Channel catfish continue to be caught on worms and dip baits throughout the lake. An occasional bass is being caught on top-water baits. Anglers are reminded that minnow usage is prohibited.

Lake Iowa (Iowa): Catfishing has been good on chicken liver and night crawlers. Bluegill and crappie fishing has been fair.

Skunk River (Washington and Henry): The river is still very low, even after the recent rain. Boating would be nearly impossible right now.

Iowa and Cedar rivers (Louisa): The water levels are still very low; recent rain seems to have soaked in.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15: The Mississippi River water levels in Pool 10 are 611 and Lock 10 is up slightly at 604. Water is clear and the temperature is 71 degrees. Use caution navigating on the Mississippi right now, as many stumps and rock piles are present throughout the river. Water level at Bellevue is 4.82 feet and dropping. Catfishing in **Pools 12-15** has been good on prepared baits or night crawlers. Catfishing is generally done in current areas along the main channel borders and larger side sloughs. Bigger channel catfish are being taken after dark. Freshwater drum (sheepshead) fishing is excellent in **Pools 9-15**. Larger drum are being caught on crawdads in tailwater and spillway areas of Locks 9 and 10. You may also want to concentrate your efforts in and around the sand flats and wing dams. Largemouth bass fishing has been good in **Pools 9-15**. These fish have been caught in very good numbers throughout the year and are generally found in the backwater lakes. A variety of lures will work, but the traditional jigs, spinner and crankbaits fished along woody structure in the early morning or late evening hours work best. Smallmouth are being caught in good numbers in Battle Slough (**Pool 9**). Smallmouth are biting crankbaits fished along the wing dams and over areas with rock. White bass are biting on in-line spinners cast into the current along the sandbars in **Pools 9-11**. Walleye fishing has been fair on the wing dams in **Pools 12-15** using crankbaits or night crawlers. Bluegill fishing is good in the deeper pools with current in DeSoto Bay (**Pool 9**) and in backwater areas, side sloughs and main channel borders, and along the tips of wing dams in 15-18 feet of water in **Pools 9-15**. Crappie fishing is good on jigs and/or minnows fished around woody structure in **Pools 12-15** in the backwater areas, side sloughs with no current and main channel borders with little or no current.

Upper Iowa River (Winneshiek): Smallmouth bass fishing is good to excellent on black jigs and crankbaits.

Turkey River (Howard): Smallmouth bass fishing is good to excellent on black jigs and crankbaits.

Cedar (Bremer and Black Hawk) and **Shell Rock rivers** (Butler and Bremer): Fishing is very good for walleyes using night crawlers and crankbaits fished around structure. Channel catfish are biting on cheese baits and night crawlers in the Cedar, Shell Rock and **West Fork Cedar River**.

Wapsipinicon Rivers (Buchanan): Smallmouth bass fishing is good using crankbaits and top-water baits.

Maquoketa (Delaware): Fishing is good for walleyes using jigs tipped with a night crawler or large minnow. Smallmouth bass fishing is good in the catch-and-release area below the Delhi Dam using spinner baits and crawdad imitation crankbaits.

Lake Delhi (Delaware): Crappie fishing is good using minnows under a slip bobber fished around the brush piles. Bluegill fishing is excellent on minnows or a piece of worm fished under a slip bobber around brush piles in shady areas.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Channel catfish are biting on cut baits and night crawlers.

Big Woods (Black Hawk) and **East Lake** (Black Hawk): Crappie fishing is fair using minnows fished under a slip bobber around structure.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Bluegill fishing is good drifting night crawlers over sunken habitat in the middle of the lake.

Casey Lake (Tama): Largemouth bass fishing is good using shallow-diving crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on chicken liver.

Trout fishing and stream conditions are excellent! For current trout stocking information, contact the Big Spring Hatchery at 563-245-1699, Decorah Hatchery at 563-382-3315 or Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-5736. You can also view the trout stocking calendar on-line by going to www.iowadnr.com, clicking on **Fish and Fishing** and then choosing **Favorite Pages**.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing continues to improve with anglers using crankbaits in the basin of the lake. Anglers are starting to catch a few walleyes on crankbaits at the footbridge. A few fish in the 26 to 29-inch range were released last week. Look for the walleyes to start moving into shallow water as the water temperature cools. Yellow perch fishing continues to be good with a lot of 9-inch fish, and a few 10 to 11-inch fish being reported. The perch are being caught on Big Stoney, Little Stoney and Red Nose Point in 16 to 18 feet of water. Some weed beds in 10 to 12 feet of water are also producing perch, along with the occasional bluegill and crappie. There is some crappie activity off the weed edges on Reeds Run. Smallmouth bass fishing is also good with the best fishing in the morning. Jigs with plastic trailers are catching good numbers of fish where the rock piles meet the weeds.

West Okoboji (Dickinson): Bluegill fishing has been good off the deep weed edges. Anglers are also finding them suspended off the steep drop-offs. Light line and ice jigs tipped with wigglers or wax worms work well. Crappies and yellow perch are being caught along the weed edges. Smallmouth bass are good on the rock piles. Surface baits are working the best. Chubs and live crawfish are also excellent live bait presentations. Walleyes are biting in the morning or late afternoon. Try jigs and minnows off the weed lines or chubs fished deep. Crankbaits will also take some fish in the deeper water.

East Okoboji (Dickinson): Use shallow running crankbaits over the weed lines for walleyes, and deeper diving crankbaits in deeper water. Anglers are picking up some yellow perch at the north end of the lake. The best perch action is in the evening. Some white bass are still being caught. Use small, white spinner baits for the best action. Fish the north end by the Hatchery in the evening.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass fishing is excellent around the rock reefs, drifting the north shore and off some of the public docks. Use minnows and cut bait for the best action. Try different spots until locating a school of fish. Channel

catfish are good on chicken liver, stink bait and chubs. Rush beds in the west end, rock reefs and wind blown shorelines are the best spots.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Bass are located almost anywhere, and are being caught on a variety of lures. Sunfish are around the trees and are taking wax worms or worms. Crappies are around the trees. Try different places until finding a school of crappies.

Boone River (Hamilton): Smallmouth bass and catfish fishing has been good. Fish the deeper holes and outside bends in the river.

Briggs Woods (Hamilton): Channel catfish are hitting stink bait, chicken liver and night crawlers.

Little Wall Lake (Hamilton): Channel catfish are hitting stink bait, chicken liver and night crawlers.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Channel catfish are excellent fishing crawdads near rocky areas on into the wind.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Channel catfish are good on a variety of baits. White bass have been good all over the lake. Anglers are picking up a few walleyes.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

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